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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Devlin, et al. )  
Filed: April 5, 2001 )  
Serial No.: 09/827,045 ) Group Art Unit: Unknown  
Title: Method for Automatically Storing and )  
Reprocessing Patient Specimens in an )  
Automatic Clinical Analyzer )  
Atty Docket No.: DCS-9119 CIP )

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find for the above-referenced application, a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and Certification Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 (three copies for accounting purposes); Form PTO-1449 on which the citations are listed; copy of International Search Report; copies of references not previously cited; and a Return Post Card.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert N. Carpenter  
Registration No. 40,409  
Attorney for Applicants

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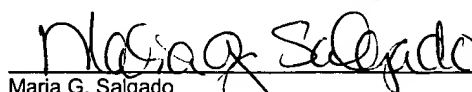
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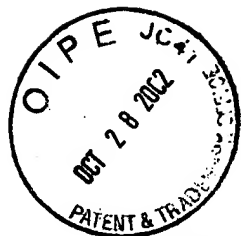
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 22 day of October, 2002.

  
Maria G. Salgado

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**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 AND 1.98**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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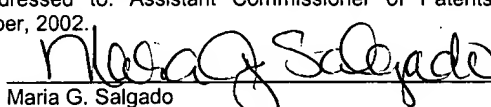
Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicants wish to bring the following information to the attention of the Examiner in connection with the subject application. A copy of each citation is attached, as is Form PTO-1449, on which the citations are listed.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1), applicants state that each item of information in this Disclosure Statement was cited in the International Search Report that was issued for the PCT application corresponding to this application not more than 3 months prior to the filing date of this document. This document is being filed in a timely manner and, therefore, applicants believe that no additional fee is due. However, if any fee is due, please charge the fee or any additional amount required for filing this document to our Deposit Account No. 04-0010. This authorization is provided in triplicate for accounting purposes. A copy of the International Search Report is also enclosed.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 22 day of October, 2002.

  
Maria G. Salgado

This Disclosure Statement is not intended to substitute for the Examiner's own search. It is believed, however, that this Disclosure Statement will assist the Examiner in the search. The Examiner is expressly requested to review each item cited herein and to make all of the cited items of record in this case as having been considered. The completed Form PTO-1449 is attached for this purpose.

Citation of the items herein is not to be construed as an admission that the information is within the scope and content of the prior art relevant to the present invention, that the information is prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the present patent application, that the information is otherwise prior art with respect to the present invention, or that the information cited is material to the claims. In addition, applicants reserve the right to later set forth how the present invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other prior art, including the information cited herein.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert N. Carpenter  
Registration No. 40,409  
Attorney for Applicants

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